

Please amend the claims as follows.

91 1. (Amended) A heart valve leaflet fastener comprising at least one pair of arms, the pair being sized and adapted for fastening two adjacent heart valve leaflets, wherein the arms pivot from one orientation to a gripping position with ends of respective paired arms being directed toward each other.

2. (Amended) The heart valve leaflet fastener of claim 1 wherein the arms flex relative to a core, and wherein the fastener has a gripping position where the pair of arms meet under tension.

92 4. (Amended) A kit comprising a cardiac catheter, a fastener applicator and a leaflet fastener of claim 1, the cardiac catheter having suitable dimensions for deployment and insertion into a human heart in the vicinity of the mitral or tricuspid valve, the leaflet fastener having a size allowing insertion through the cardiac catheter, the fastener applicator releasably holding the leaflet fastener.

93 13. (Amended) A device comprising a catheter, a leaflet fastener applicator and a leaflet fastener of claim 1, the catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and suitable dimensions for insertion into a heart, the leaflet fastener applicator passing through the catheter being actuatable from the proximal end of the catheter and a fastening element projecting from the distal end of the catheter, the leaflet fastener applicator releasably holding the leaflet fastener.

14. (Amended) A heart valve repair instrument comprising a ring and a ring applicator, wherein the ring is releasably attachable to the applicator, the ring comprises two pointed shafts and wherein the applicator can apply a force to the ring to bring the points of the shafts toward each other relative to an initial position, the ring and applicator having an appropriate size for placement within a chamber of a human heart.

u/ 18. (Amended) A heart valve repair instrument comprising a shaft, a cap, a gripper and a flexible rod, wherein the gripper comprises a plurality of arms radiating from a pivot with each arm having a spike, wherein the cap is located distal to the pivot and the pivot is located distal to the shaft, and wherein the flexible rod connects to the cap to provide for movement of the cap relative to the pivot of the gripper and the shaft by pulling the flexible rod, the cap having an opening that can be positioned over the pivot to lock the arms in a closed position.

CS 24. (Amended) The instrument of claim 20 wherein the memory metal is selected from the group consisting of cobalt-chromium-nickel-molybdenum alloy, MP35N, nickel-titanium alloy, stainless steel and spring metal.